

ALL PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

What is claimed is:

1.(Amended) In a computer system including a clearinghouse component, a nonprofit component having one or more nonprofits, a supporter component having one or more supporters, and a merchant component having one or more merchants, with the clearinghouse component connecting the other three components via a variety of entry terminals, said computer system and said components having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps in a method, the clearinghouse component having recorded therein an individual identification number (ID) for each of the one or more supporters and identifications of each of said one or more nonprofits and said one or more merchants, the steps in the method comprising:


——— ~~providing each of a plurality of supporters with an individual identification number (ID);~~

——— ~~encoding and entering the ID into one of said entry terminals;~~

——— ~~entering in said computer system, at an entry terminal of a merchant in a transaction, entering an ID and an amount spent by a supporter at a merchant in a transaction; the merchant;~~

~~_____havingin said computer system, having the entry terminal record the ID of the merchant record,~~ in computer code, the ID as well as the amount of dollars spent in a the transaction;

~~_____uploadingin computer code, uploading the ID and the amount entered to a central clearinghouse, wherein a program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein, in computer code;~~ code, a determination by said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant;

 ~~_____calculatingin computer code, calculating~~ in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit; and


in computer code, deducting from the purchases of the supporter from said merchant the calculated rebates determined by the merchant and in computer code forwarding to said nonprofit the calculated and deducted rebates to be paid by the merchant to said nonprofit.

2.(Amended) In a computer system having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, a method of accumulating credits for one or more organizations, comprising:

~~_____recordingin the computer system, recording, on computer readable media~~ including codes that when executed perform steps, assigned identifications to one or more

supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations affiliated with the supporters and merchants during transactions between one or more supporters and one or more merchants;

— associating in the computer system, associating, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, the identification of each supporter and a merchant with an affiliated organization in response to each transaction between a merchant and a supporter;

 in the computer system, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, deducting and recording rebates, determined by the merchants and to be paid by the merchants to the organizations, from purchases merchant to the affiliated organization, from a purchase of the supporter from said merchants in each of the transactions; merchant in a transaction; and

in computer code, transmitting to the organizations ~~the rebates,~~ a rebate, deducted from purchases of the supporter from said ~~merchants in said transactions~~ merchant in said transaction between said supporter and the merchants, and to be given to the organizations.

3. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 2, wherein the steps of recording assigned identification are performed at a remote terminal of a merchant; and

the steps of associating, deducting, and transmitting are performed in a central clearinghouse.

4.(Amended) A method as in claim 2, wherein the organization is a nonprofit body, the one or more supporters shop at the one or more merchants, and the one or more merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body.

5.(Amended) A method as in claim 2, further comprising assigning identifications to each of said one or more supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations.

6.(Amended) A method as in claim 3, wherein each the step of recording includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and the step of transmitting includes downloading accumulated rebates to said remote terminals at said one or more merchants.

7.(Amended) ~~A program~~ A computer program product encoded on a computer readable medium residing in a computer of a central clearinghouse, comprising ~~instructions for performing~~ a code that when executed on the computer perform the steps of:

~~assigning to~~ assigning, in a code to be executed on the computer, to one or more organizations and one or more affiliated supporters and one or more merchants individual identifications;

maintaining, in a code to be executed on the computer, a schedule of rebates determined by each of the one or more the merchants due to each of the one or more organizations from each of the merchants;

collecting, in a code to be executed on the computer, from the merchant, during a transaction between a supporter and a merchant, the identifications of the supporter and the merchant;

calculating, in a code to be executed on the computer, the rebates due from ~~each~~the merchant to ~~each~~the organization; and

transmitting, in a code to be executed on the computer, to the one or more organizations, the amount of rebates determined by the one or more merchants and due the ~~organization~~one or more organizations from each of the merchants.

8.(Amended) A method utilizing programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, said method comprising:

in computer code, entering in a clearinghouse computer network identification of merchants, identification of supporters associated with the merchants, and identification of nonprofit organizations associated with the supporters and the merchants;

in computer code, entering into said clearinghouse computer network a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations; and

in computer code, having payments credited, on the basis of said transactions and said rebate calculations determined by said merchants, from said merchants to said nonprofit organizations.

9.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the merchants, and the step of identification of supporters includes enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and is performed at the remote terminals of the merchants; and


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said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in a central clearinghouse.

10.(Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the nonprofit organization is a nonprofit body, the supporters shop at the merchants, and the merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body.

11.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the step of having payments credited includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and downloading accumulated payments credited to said remote terminals at said nonprofit organizations.

12.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations, and the step of entering identification of supporters includes enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations and is performed at remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

information concerning enrolling supporters uploaded by said remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations to a database in said central clearinghouse computer network.



13.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, said transactions define shopping activity, and said payments represent calculated rebates, and said clearinghouse downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by the nonprofit organizations.

14.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by said supporters and said step of entering identifications of supporters includes supporters using said remote terminals to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive payments based on the calculated rebates; and

information concerning said enrollment is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

15. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the transactions in the form of shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by said supporters .

16.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit, and the step of enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofits are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said nonprofit remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

17.(Amended) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated ~~rebate~~rebates due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by nonprofit organizations.

18.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by supporters to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive the calculated rebates; and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

19.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebate due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by said supporters.

20.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said process of entering the identification of the merchants, identification of the supporters, and identification of the nonprofit organizations includes enrolling of the merchants, the supporters, and of the nonprofit organizations, as well as recognizing the merchants, the supporters, and the nonprofit organizations during said transactions.


21. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations is performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in the central clearinghouse.

22. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of

supporters and the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.



23. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

24. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations associated with the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

25. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

26.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of merchants associated with the supporters are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

27.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

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said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

28.(New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the program in said clearinghouse component having recorded therein in computer code the determination of said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant, further including the determination of said merchant of the nonprofits to receive rebates from said merchant, the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate; and the step of calculating in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit includes agreeing on the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate.

29.(New) A method as in claim 1, wherein said nonprofits enroll supporters, and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop.

30.(New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising said nonprofits encoding and entering data in said clearing house component to enroll supporters and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop.

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ALL PENDING CLAIMS IDENTIFYING AMENDMENTS IN SPECIFICATION

What is claimed is:

1.(Amended) In a computer system including a clearinghouse component, a nonprofit component having one or more nonprofits [See Fig. 1] , a supporter component having one or more supporters [See Fig. 1], and a merchant component having one or more merchants [See Fig. 1], with the clearinghouse component connecting the other three components via a variety of entry terminals, said computer system and said components having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps in a method, the clearinghouse component having recorded therein an individual identification number (ID) for each of the one or more supporters and identifications of each of said one or more nonprofits and said one or more merchants. [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] the steps in the method comprising:

~~—providing each of a plurality of supporters with an individual identification number (ID);~~

~~—encoding and entering the ID into one of said entry terminals;~~

~~—entering in said computer system, at an entry terminal of a merchant in a transaction, entering an ID and an amount spent by a supporter at a merchant in a transaction;the merchant;~~ [Page 5 paragraph 3, and Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3]

~~_____havingin said computer system, having~~ the entry terminal record ~~the ID~~ of the merchant record, in computer code, the ID as well as the amount of dollars spent in athe transaction; [Page 5 paragraph 3, and Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, and Fig. 6]

~~_____uploadingin computer code, uploading~~ the ID and the amount entered to a central clearinghouse, wherein a program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein, in computer code; code, a determination by said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant; [Page 5 paragraph 3, and Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, and Fig. 6]

~~_____calculatingin computer code, calculating~~ in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit; [Page 5 paragraph 3, Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, and Fig. 6] and

in computer code, [Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, Fig. 6]deducting from the purchases of the supporter from said merchant the calculated rebates determined by the merchant and in computer code forwarding to said nonprofit the calculated and deducted rebates to be paid by the merchant to said nonprofit [Page 5 paragraph 3, Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3].

2.(Amended) In a computer system having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, a method of accumulating credits for one or more [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] organizations, comprising:

~~recording in the computer system, recording, on computer readable media~~
including codes that when executed perform steps, assigned identifications to one or more
supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations affiliated with the supporters
and merchants during transactions between one or more supporters and one or more
merchants [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to
6];

~~associating in the computer system, associating, on computer readable media~~
including codes that when executed perform steps, the identification of each a supporter and a
merchant with an affiliated organization in response to each transaction between a merchant and
a supporter; [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to
6]

in the computer system, on computer readable media including codes that when
executed perform steps, deducting and recording rebates, determined by the merchants and to be
paid by the merchants to the organizations, from purchases merchant to the affiliated
organization, from a purchase of the supporter from said merchants in each of the
transactions; merchant in a transaction; [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page
13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] and

in computer code, transmitting to the organizations ~~the rebates, a rebate,~~ [See P4 last two
lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] deducted from purchases
of the supporter from said ~~merchants in said transactions~~ merchant in said transaction [See P4

last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] between said supporter and the merchants, and to be given to the organizations.

3.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 2, wherein the steps of recording assigned identification are performed at a remote terminal of a merchant; and

the steps of associating, deducting, and transmitting are performed in a central clearinghouse.

4.(Amended) A method as in claim 2, wherein the organization is a nonprofit body, the one or more supporters shop at the one or more merchants, and the one or more merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body. [See Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

5.(Amended) A method as in claim 2, further comprising assigning identifications to each of said one or more supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations. [See P4, last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

6.(Amended) A method as in claim 3, wherein each the step of recording includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and the step of transmitting includes downloading accumulated rebates to said remote terminals at said one or more merchants. [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

7.(Amended) ~~A program~~ A computer program product encoded on a computer readable medium residing in a computer of a central clearinghouse, comprising ~~instructions for performing~~ a code that when executed on the computer perform the steps of: [See Fig. 1]

~~assigning to~~ assigning, in a code to be executed on the computer, to one or more organizations and one or more affiliated supporters and one or more merchants individual identifications; [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

maintaining, in a code to be executed on the computer, a schedule of rebates determined by each of the one or more the merchants due to each of the one or more organizations from each of the merchants; [See Fig. 1]

collecting, in a code to be executed on the computer, from the merchant, during a transaction between a supporter and a merchant, the identifications of the supporter and the merchant; [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

calculating, in a code to be executed on the computer, the rebates due from ~~each~~ the merchant to ~~each~~ the organization; and [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

transmitting, in a code to be executed on the computer, to the one or more organizations,
the amount of rebates determined by the one or more merchants and due the ~~organization~~one or
more organizations from each of the merchants. [Fig. 1]

8.(Amended) A method utilizing programs encoded on computer readable media
including codes that when executed perform steps, said method comprising: [See P4 last two
lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

in computer code, entering in a clearinghouse computer network identification of
merchants, identification of supporters associated with the merchants, and identification of
nonprofit organizations associated with the supporters and the merchants;

in computer code, entering into said clearinghouse computer network a rebate
calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for
payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations; and

in computer code, having payments credited, on the basis of said transactions and said
rebate calculations determined by said merchants, from said merchants to said nonprofit
organizations.

9.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer
network includes remote terminals of the merchants, and the step of identification of supporters

includes enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and is performed at the remote terminals of the merchants; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in a central clearinghouse.

10.(Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the nonprofit organization is a nonprofit body, the supporters shop at the merchants, and the merchants agree to pay [Page 4, lines 3 to 4, See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6,] rebates to the nonprofit body.

11.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the step of having payments credited includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and downloading accumulated payments credited to said remote terminals at said nonprofit organizations.

12.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations, and the step of entering identification of supporters includes enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations and is performed at remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

information concerning enrolling supporters uploaded by said remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations to a database in said central clearinghouse computer network.

13.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, said transactions define shopping activity, and said payments represent calculated rebates, and said clearinghouse downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by the nonprofit organizations.

14.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by said supporters and said step of entering identifications of supporters includes supporters using said remote terminals to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive payments based on the calculated rebates; and

information concerning said enrollment is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

15. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the transactions in the form of shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by said supporters .

16.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit, and the step of enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofits are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said nonprofit remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

17.(Amended) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated ~~rebate~~rebates [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by nonprofit organizations.

18.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by supporters to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive the calculated rebates; and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

19.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebate due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by said supporters.

20.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said process of entering the identification of the merchants, identification of the supporters, and identification of the nonprofit organizations includes enrolling of the merchants, the supporters, and of the nonprofit organizations, as well as recognizing the merchants, the supporters, and the nonprofit organizations during said transactions.

21. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations is performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in the central clearinghouse.

22. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters and the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said

supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

23. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

24. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations associated with the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

25. (Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

26.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of merchants associated with the supporters are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

27.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said

supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

28.(New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the program in said clearinghouse component having recorded therein in computer code the determination of said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant, further including the determination of said merchant of the nonprofits to receive rebates from said merchant, the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate; and the step of calculating in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit includes agreeing on the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate. [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6; See especially Page 5, Paragraph 3]

29.(New) A method as in claim 1, wherein said nonprofits enroll supporters, and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop. [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 5, Page 9 line 4 to page 10 last line, and Fig. 4]

30.(New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising said nonprofits encoding and entering data in said clearing house component to enroll supporters and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop. [See P4 last two lines to P5 line 5, Page 9 line 4 to page 10 last line, and Fig. 4]